

Weekly Update

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In This Issue

- Plan to Attend ASDWA's Annual Conference in Texas
- Chronic Budget Battle Creates Unease over Shutdown Potential
- President Signs HR 212 into Law
- Updated Data Now Available in EPA's Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool (NPDPAT)
- American Iron & Steel Waiver Requests Received by EPA
- EPA Develops Handout Summarizing its Climate Change Adaptation Tools
- October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month
- Gold King Mine Spill Update
- EPA Webinar on Diagnosing Biological Impacts on the Nation's Freshwater Systems
- EPA Develops Community-Focused Exposure

Plan to Attend ASDWA's Annual Conference in Texas

ASDWA's 30th Annual Conference will be held on **October 20-23, 2015** in Fort Worth, Texas at the Fort Worth Hilton hotel. The overall flow for the conference is summarized below:

Tuesday, October 20th:

8:00-9:15 a.m.:	States Only Roundtable
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.:	State-EPA Roundtable
3:30-5:00 p.m.:	Committee Meetings
5:00-7:00 p.m.:	Welcoming Reception/Exhibits Open

Wednesday, October 21st:

8:00-11:30 a.m.:	Opening Plenary Session
1:00-5:00 p.m.:	Concurrent Sessions

Thursday, October 22nd:

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
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Friday, October 23rd:

8:00-10:00 a.m.:	Concurrent Sessions
10:00-11:30 a.m.:	Closing Plenary Session & Adjourn

Please go to the "Conferences" portion of ASDWA's web site (www.asdwa.org/Conferences) to both register for the conference and reserve a room at the conference hotel (Fort Worth Hilton) at the conference rate of \$145/night. We look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth!

Chronic Budget Battle Creates Unease over Shutdown Potential

Despite repeated assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) that there will be no government shutdown this year, the list of Democratic "show stoppers" continues to grow. In addition to opposition to spending cuts or program deletions, Minority Leader Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), has provided a list of what he is calling Democratic "deal-breakers" that must be avoided if Republicans want Democrats to support an FY 16 budget or even a continuing resolution for the new fiscal year that begins October 1. The list includes Immigration riders, in the form of penalties levied on so-called "sanctuary cities"; a repeal of the health care law; cuts in Social Security; cuts in programs such as Head Start and Pell Grants; moves toward privatizing Medicare; attacks on the Dodd-Frank financial law; and rolling back administration initiatives on climate change. Despite both Chambers having finished much of the work on funding for the 12



appropriations bills, the tensions between the two parties in how to reconcile those funding decisions with party priority issues remains unresolved.

President Signs HR 212 into Law

As reported in last week's *ASDWA Weekly Update*, both the House and Senate agreed to the language included in HR 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act and sent it to the President for signature. On August 7th, the bill became law (PL 114-45). As a quick recap, the bill amends the SDWA to provide for risk assessment and management of cyanotoxins in drinking water; calls for EPA to develop a strategic plan to assess and manage risks associated with cyanotoxins in drinking water supplied by public water systems; and requires the Agency to submit that plan to Congress. The measure also calls for EPA to enter into cooperative agreements with, and provide technical assistance to, affected states and public water systems. However, no funds are authorized to carry out these requirements.

Updated Data Now Available in EPA's Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool (NPDAT)

EPA has added updated data in the NPDAT, a tool intended to help states develop effective nitrogen and phosphorus source reduction strategies. The data layer "Facilities Likely to Discharge Nitrogen/Phosphorus (N/P) to Water" now provides information on N/P discharges from 2014 facility monitoring reports (previously 2013 information was the most current information available through the EPA's data access tool) and corresponding nitrogen and phosphorus limits from EPA's Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool.

In addition, the "Waters Listed for N/P Impairments" and "Waters with N/P Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)" data layers now reflect data pulled from the Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS) as of May 2015 (previously the layers reflected 2014 ATTAINS data). Finally, the "Drinking Water Sources" HUC12 Density data layer provides information on surface and ground water sources as of (quarter 4) 2014 (previously the layer reflected 2010 data).

NPDAT and the updated data layers are available at:
www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/npdat.

American Iron & Steel Waiver Requests Received by EPA

The "American Iron and Steel (AIS)" provision requires Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) assistance recipients to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States. This requirement is applicable to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water system or treatment works. The AIS provision is a permanent requirement for all CWSRF projects. The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 requires the use of AIS products in DWSRF projects through September 30, 2015. The appropriation language sets forth certain circumstances under which EPA may waive American Iron and Steel requirements. A waiver may be provided if EPA determines that:

1. applying these requirements would be inconsistent with the public interest;
2. iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
3. inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

EPA recently posted several waiver requests received, including four separate but similar requests from Alabama, Georgia, Idaho, and Oklahoma for waivers for small systems from DWSRF AIS requirements. The comment period for these requests closes on **August 25, 2015**. The link to these four request letters is as follows: [DWSRF Small Systems Waiver Requests \(PDF\)](#)

The link to EPA's dedicated AIS website is as follows:
http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/aisrequirement.cfm

EPA Develops Handout Summarizing its Climate Change Adaptation Tools

EPA has developed a handout summarizing the tools developed by the agency for state, tribal, and local governments and others to adapt their clean water and drinking water programs to a changing climate. Tools include, among others, a Storm Surge Inundation and Hurricane Strike Frequency Map; a Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans; a Flood Resilience Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities; and a National Stormwater Calculator with Climate Scenarios.

[Click here to download the handout.](#)

[Click here to access the handout and other climate change and water resources.](#)

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity to our nation, President Obama has designated this October as **National Cyber Security Awareness Month NCSAM**. NCSAM is designed to engage and educate public and private sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity and increasing the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber-incident.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA), invites your organization to participate in NCSAM this October. NCSAM 2015 will include a series of events across the country hosted by governments, businesses, nonprofits, and academic organizations to raise cybersecurity awareness and increase the nation's resiliency in the event of a cyber-incident. NCSAM themes have been developed for each of the five weeks in October. Weekly themes focus on an aspect of cybersecurity and the reality of our constantly connected lives, as follows:

- **Week 1** (Oct 1-2) General Cybersecurity Awareness: Celebrating 5 Years of Stop.Think.Connect.™
- **Week 2** (Oct 5-9) Creating a Culture of Cybersecurity at Work
- **Week 3** (Oct 12-16) Connected Communities: Staying Protected While Always Connected
- **Week 4** (Oct 19-23) Your Evolving Digital Life
- **Week 5** (Oct 26-30) Building the Next Generation of Cyber Professionals

More information about National Cyber Security Awareness Month is available in the attachment.

Gold King Mine Spill Update

As has been widely reported, during an EPA site inspection on August 5th, about 3 million gallons of wastewater stored behind collapsed material from the Gold King Mine spilled into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River. On August 12th and 13th, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy met with state, local, and tribal officials in Durango, CO and toured the area in and around Farmington, NM to understand response efforts there. During her visit, the Agency's Unified Area Command unit was able to share data that shows water quality in the Animas River to be quickly returning to pre-event conditions. Public health concerns are still a top priority and local community officials are very engaged with the decision making process. Click this link **Get the latest updates on EPA's response to the spill** for more information.

EPA Webinar on Diagnosing Biological Impacts to the Nation's Freshwater Systems

On **Wednesday, August 19th from 12:00–1:00pm** (eastern), EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources research program will host a webinar entitled, "Diagnosing Stressor Importance in EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS)." The webinar will present research done by EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) in conjunction with EPA's Office of Water (OW) to help clarify an approach for large-scale diagnosis of the major factors impacting the biological health of freshwaters. Register online at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2940549658841437442>.

EPA Develops Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool

EPA's Office of Research and Development has developed a beta version of a Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST). It's designed to provide access to resources that can be used to help communities learn more about their environmental issues and risks. They can view information about their environment, compare community environmental conditions, explore solutions, and use it with community guides. This new tool can be used in tandem with other complementary tools the Agency has recently developed, EJSCREEN and EnviroAtlas. They're also working to link the tools and harmonize the underlying datasets. The Agency is currently engaging with states and local agencies about the tool and providing an opportunity for comment on a pre-release version. Public release is expected by March 2016. States and local agencies desiring access to a pre-release version should send an e-mail request to CFERSTMAIL@epa.gov.